General Assembly

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Agenda item 160

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/58/L.3/Rev.1 and Add.1)*]

58/9. Global road safety crisis

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 57/309 of 22 May 2003,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General on the global road safety crisis,[1]

Expressing great concern at the rapid increase, particularly in developing countries, in traffic fatalities and injuries worldwide, which accounted for an estimated 1.26 million deaths in 2000 and which disproportionately affect people in low- and middle-income countries, and also expressing concern at the economic costs of road traffic injuries, which amount to 518 billion United States dollars per annum worldwide, with developing countries bearing 100 billion dollars of the cost,

Convinced that road traffic injuries are a major public health problem requiring concerted multisectoral efforts for effective and sustainable prevention,

Affirming the need for a worldwide effort to raise awareness about the health impact and social and economic costs of injuries caused by road traffic accidents,

Recognizing that effective action requires strong political commitment, in particular at the national but also at the international level,

Recognizing also that road traffic injuries are a preventable and treatable problem,

Emphasizing the need for the private sector and relevant non-governmental organizations to participate actively in promoting road traffic safety,

Convinced that road safety requires partnerships, bridging many sectors of society, to promote and facilitate efforts to prevent road traffic injuries,

Convinced also that responsibility for road safety rests at the local, municipal and national levels, and recognizing that many developing countries have limited capacities to address these issues,

[1] A/58/228.

Recognizing the importance of further strengthening the efforts of developing countries to build capacities in the field of road safety, and of providing financial and technical support for those efforts,

Welcoming the efforts of the relevant United Nations agencies and many other organizations in promoting road traffic safety,

Commending the World Health Organization for its important work, and welcoming the selection of the theme "Road safety" for the observance of World Health Day on 7 April 2004, when the World Health Organization will release its *World Report on Road Traffic Injury Prevention*,

1. *Decides* to hold a plenary meeting of the General Assembly on 14 April 2004 in connection with World Health Day and the launching of the *World Report on Road Traffic Injury Prevention* to increase awareness at a high level of the magnitude of the road traffic injury problem, and invites Governments to participate, as appropriate;

2. *Invites* the President of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General, the Director-General of the World Health Organization, the President of the World Bank, the Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to address the Assembly;

3. *Invites* the Economic and Social Council, working with other relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, and through its regional commissions, to facilitate the exchange of information on best road traffic safety practices and the development of recommendations for road traffic injury control;

4. *Requests* the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat to organize a meeting of experts, the private sector, relevant non-governmental organizations, members of civil society and other interested parties, including the media, on the morning of 15 April 2004, in conjunction with the plenary meeting, to raise awareness and exchange information on best road practices;

5. *Underlines* the need for international cooperation to deal with issues of road safety;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General, through an appropriate United Nations body, to submit a report to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session on the progress made in improving global road safety and the issues referred to in the present resolution, also taking into consideration the views expressed during the meetings on 14 and 15 April 2004;

7. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixtieth session the item entitled "Global road safety crisis".

56th plenary meeting
5 November 2003